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Stark County Law Library Association

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BEGINNERS

www.virtualchase.com

**The email address,
info@starklaw
library.org really
works! TRY IT!!**

The mission of this library, located at [<http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law.html>](http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law.html) on the web, "is to provide research and legal information to the U.S. Congress as well as to U.S. Federal Courts and Executive Agencies, and to offer reference services to the public." ¹

The site includes links to important resources including GLIN, Global Legal Information Network at [<http://www.loc.gov/law/glin/>](http://www.loc.gov/law/glin/) where anyone may sign on to the system as a guest and view the summaries and citation information for the laws and legal writings in the database. Searches can be done by jurisdiction, subject, date, or type of legal instrument, or by a combination of these elements.

The Guide to Law Online at [<http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-guide.html>](http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-guide.html) is a portal of Internet sources of interest to legal researchers including links to:

- International and Multinational
- Nations of the World
- U.S. Federal - includes U.S. Code and Constitution links
- U.S. States and Territories

Another section of the site is the Multinational Collections Database which reprints "the

laws and regulations of international jurisdictions on a particular legal topic, comparative in nature.

The purpose of the database is to provide additional identifying information about titles, beyond that which is provided in the library's online catalog." ²

It is located at [<http://www.loc.gov/mulp/>](http://www.loc.gov/mulp/), and at THOMAS: Legislative Information at [<http://thomas.loc.gov/>](http://thomas.loc.gov/).

The site also features information about using the collection, "Learn more about the Law Library," which includes links to:

- About the Law Library [<http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-about.html>](http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-about.html),
- About the Law Collections [<http://www.loc.gov/law/public/lawcoll-about.html>](http://www.loc.gov/law/public/lawcoll-about.html),
- Legal Research FAQ [<http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-faq.html>](http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-faq.html),
- Law Library Reading Room [<http://www.loc.gov/rr/law/>](http://www.loc.gov/rr/law/),
- Services for the Public [<http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-public.html>](http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-public.html), and
- Research Opportunities [<http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-ops.html>](http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-ops.html).

BEGINNER

Law Library of Congress (Continued)

The site also contains links to presentations related to the library, including And Sovereign Law... *History of the Members of Congress Room* located at <<http://www.loc.gov/law/public/asl/htdoc/>>.

The site includes a search engine to help locate specific information.

INTERMEDIATE

The Current State of VoIP

In the greater scheme of things - Can VoIP survive Congress?

VoIP has finally made it to the mainstream of US culture - during the past month I have seen three TV commercials touting the technology. (And I rarely watch TV) AT&T <<http://www.usa.att.com/callvantage/index.jsp?soac=75008>> and Verizon <<http://www22.verizon.com/ForYourHome/VOIP/VOIPHome.aspx>> appear to be vying for position with the more established Skype <<http://www.skype.com/products/>> and Vonage <<http://www.vonage.com/>> services.

So far, most of the major action has been with home phones, but as the following survey suggests, corporate use is on its way up also.

Economist Intelligence Unit surveyed more than 250 senior executives and found that 43% were either using or planning to implement VoIP within the next two years, while a further 18% expected to deploy the technology in the long term. Executives' interest in the technology is driven both by the perceived cost savings in network consolidation and by

the wide range of possible IP telephony services and applications. While an overwhelming 87% of respondents cited tele-communications cost savings as an important factor in the decision to implement VoIP, an equally impressive 71% were motivated by the ability to deploy advanced IP telephony features.³

But the biggest question facing the use of VoIP may be - Can it survive Congress?

Federal legislation over VoIP has all but failed in the 108th Congress. The idea was simple enough. Voice over IP technology is inherently interstate in nature and should therefore fall solely under the FCC. But nothing in Washington stays simple. The "maelstrom of interests and issues" including wiretapping, the billions of dollars that are literally on the line for the state budgets, and what effect the lack of regulation will have on the venture capitalists debating investing in the new technology.⁴

A major wrangle going on in the US between the federal and state lawmakers sees many of the latter

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keen to class VoIP as just another telephone service - with all that this implies for taxation - while the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is taking a more enlightened, hands-off approach. Whatever the final outcome of this difference of opinion, you don't have to be clairvoyant to see that VoIP is the future of telephony.⁵

A lot of our current mess in Washington can be credited to a one

cent "luxury" tax on each phone call made in 1898, with the proceeds earmarked for the Spanish-American war. The tax was repealed in 1902, but reimposed in 1914 to pay for WWI and eventually became permanent in 1990.⁶

Unfortunately, "this is a classic Washington scenario that often heralds bad legislation."⁷

ADVANCED

Anti-Malware Use

Anti-malware tools almost never fully duplicate one another: what one finds, another may miss.

If you have followed the advice in the last two months' articles, you now have a healthy computer - let's keep it like that by installing a few anti-malware programs!

As Malware authors get more experienced, they're finding ways to make their stuff more difficult to detect and remove. That's one of the reasons why prevention--- not allowing malware to gain a foothold on your PC in the first place--- is so important.⁸

Inoculation/cleanup tools like

- SpywareBlaster <<http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/>>
- SpybotS&D <<http://www.safer-networking.org/>> ,
- Ad-Aware <<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/>> and
- Pestpatrol <<http://www.pestpatrol.com/>>

<<http://www.pestpatrol.com/>> all can save you hours of grief and years on the phone to tech support after some nasty has wormed its way into your system.


Why the apparent redundancy in the above list? While it's true that you should only run one firewall and one anti-virus tool at the desktop level (running multiple instances just bogs you down), anti-malware tools almost never fully duplicate one another: what one finds, another may miss. It's because different tools concentrate on different kinds of malware, and no one anti-malware tool will find everything, all the time.

Also, anti-malware tools, like all software, may contain their own bugs and errors.⁹



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FOOTNOTES

- ¹ "Law Library of Congress." LII Librarians' Index to the Internet. 15 July 2004. Librarians' Index to the Internet, LII. 14 October 2004. <<http://lii.org/ntw/>>.
- ² Multinational Collections Database. 2 April 2003. The Law Library of Congress. 15 October 2004. <<http://www.loc.gov/mulp/>>
- ³ "43% of Companies to Use VOIP Within the Next Two Years." 25 September 2004 <<http://www.itfacts.biz/index.php?id=P1625>> 
from Friedman, Mathew. "Survey: VoIP to Become New Standard For Voice Traffic." Comms Design. 23 September 2004. CMP Media LLC. 21 October 2004. <http://www.commsdesign.com/news/market_news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=47902339>.
- ⁴ Mark, Roy. "Congress Hangs Up on VoIP for 2004." Internetnews.com. 3 September 2004. Jupitermedia Corporation. 21 October 2004. <<http://www.internetnews.com/bus-news/article.php/3403911>>
- ⁵ "VoIP on the Line." Netcraft. 2004. Netcraft, LTD. 21 October 2004. <http://news.netcraft.com/archives/2004/06/12/voip_on_the_line.html>.
- ⁶ Declan McCullagh. "IRS Eyes Net Phone Taxes." Cnet New.com. 6 July 2004. CNET Networks, Inc. 21 October 2004. <http://news.com.com/2100-7352_3-5258809.html>.
- ⁷ McCullagh, Declan. "Can VoIP Survive Congress?" Cnet New.com. 5 July 2004. CNET Networks, Inc. 21 October 2004. <<http://news.com.com/2010-1028-5256334.html?tag=nefd.acpro>>.
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